

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A polynucleotide comprising:
a nucleotide sequence encoding an RNAi operatively linked to a tissue specific promoter, a cell specific promoter, and/or an inducible promoter, further comprising a cleaving element capable of cleaving the nucleotide sequence 5' and/or 3' to the RNAi.

Claims 2-17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (previously presented): A vector comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 1.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): A host cell comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 1.

Claims 21-22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (withdrawn): A transgenic animal comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 1.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): A method of inhibiting or reducing expression of a target gene in a cell of an organism, said method comprising the steps:

- (i) administering to said cell a polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the RNAi has specificity or partial specificity for the target gene; and
- (ii) allowing expression of the RNAi such that the RNAi inhibits or reduces expression of the target gene.

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (withdrawn): A method of identifying a modulator of a target gene, said method comprising the steps:

- (i) providing a host cell according to claim 20;
 - (ii) administering a candidate modulator to said host cell or said transgenic organism;
- and
- (iii) determining expression of said target gene in the presence of the candidate modulator.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutical excipient.

Claims 29-30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (withdrawn): A method for establishing the biological function(s) of a target gene(s) in the host cell of claim 20.